10/30/71

Dear Jerry,

Although I had had less than two real hours of sleep night before last after the meeting with Ned, and the second night before that about as much or a bit less after his call, after Howard's call last night and then my call to you I was again sleepless. I lay abed perhaps an hour before falling asleep. All of this is deeply troubling to me. But it is also something from which I shall have to divorce myself if only because I have too much work to do. I have several time decided that I would abandon the fireman's role, but this time I am going to have to do it. I am also going to have to limit the things in which I permit myself to have an interest, on which I compile files solely so that at some time they may be of use to others.

Lil was sitting and knitting in the living room when we spoke. She rarely comments on these things, but she could understand from my end of the conversation that you seemed to have referred to the help I have gotten from the critics. At that she was indignant. They have been nothing but trouble and expense to us, except for the younger ones I can limit it pretty much. Mal Werb is no longer active, and he was great, but he still owes us perhaps $300. Yet because I know this was an accident, I make an exception of him. Aside from him, there are only you, Howard, Gary and Koch who have not been not only unhelpful but hurtful. If there is a single exception it does not come to mind. As with Sylvia, where I am certain she did not intend it, in some cases it may not have been the intent. But in most cases this is hard to believe. Not as untypical as I would like to think it is Lane's forcing the speakers' bureau to cancel the deal Dick Gregory arranged for me. As you know, I have files on all these things and as you know, you don't even have to ask me, you can just look through and for whatever you want. Some of it is pretty wretched busines. Some is just plain crooked. And where money is involved, you'd be astounded at the amount of time we have to spend in just trying to get them to repay us. Let me give you two exaples: Penn Jones has owed us money since about 1966. He admits it to others, doesn't deny it is me or admits it, and now just doesn't answer letters. After you knew about it and knew that Lil had written Trent for the money he owes us, I know she has written him at least once again because I noticed it when I mailed it. We don't usually discuss these things with each other because each of us wants to keep the other's worry level down. And, of course, every time one of these things comes to attention or becomes a problem, among the things that come to my mind is the kind of life this has forced upon Lil.

However, I had a different purpose in writing you before Lil makes breakfast. I want you to know that I am not just imagining. When you talk about the help other critics have given us you talk fantasies, and she was as much angered by this, which seems to be a general misunderstanding, as I must clearly have been. So, because of the question of Cyril, I have copied the three letters before the long one I wrote him after I had learned, rightly or wrongly, that he had applied for access to the pictures and X-rays. Now there is just no question that he has. He couldn't under the contract do it with the Archives until either yesterday or today, but he has passed the Burke Marshall stage. I learned it only by accident. I happened to be in the CTKA office and was there only because a Chicago reporter was in DC and had apparently asked Bud to have me meet with them. Yes, I also had a date with Bud on the Ray case. I have already divorced myself from him (not Jim, with whom I still deal closely on a personal basis) except on the Ray case and the appeals he is still handling for me. Bob Smith, in confidence, told Finley the whole thing. Now maybe he was wrong, but I have done some checking since my long call to Sylvia after the stupidity of Gary telling Ned to call her. And I tell you that whether at Cyril's request of not, Bob has begun, at this late date, a study of the medical evidence so that those nuts can be his assistants when he applies or gets to see the film or whatever. That he has been working on this since about the time Cyril became non-responsive I know. The reason I did not. Jim has since confirmed for me (and keep that in confidence) that this is Bob's purpose. I had a long talk with Jim about the potential of what Cyril is up to. Even Sylvia, despite what she seems to have told you or how you have understood it, confirmed the existence to me, saying that she had urged CJ to make the application months ago and that the last she had heard Marshall had referred him to the Archives. Under the contract, one of the things that is after CJ's active work and she thus does not understand, this is the sole prerequisite to asking the Archives, and despite any denial or other

representation or misrepresentation, long ago Cyril passed that point.

Some of these things which, to your good fortune, are foreign to you, are not nearly as simple as they seem. Some of the potential disasters I have had to attack and did prevent have taken from me what nothing can return. Even Roch, great as he is, has been part of two, one that did come to pass. If he is innocent in intent, that has no effect on the end result.

Now so that you can understand, since about January 1969, I have been on close terms with Cyril. In all t is time I have gotten nothing by way of help from him save one and that an inadequate and incomplete reading by his criminalist on one picture. Period. You can check the file. In all this time in every way I could I have been begging him to come here and look at the evidence I have been developing. Rather than trying to keep it secret, I have even sent him some of it. For months I have been after a single thing of which I told you. Once Cyril saw some of the stuff I have been developing, he told me to phone him reverse any time I had anything to discuss with him or ask of him. Once I did it. He did not return the call. Then he decided to ask for the film and I had another occasion to phone him. He did not return that cal, to this day hasn't. You should understand that he has a secretary at each office, so that in his letter of August 27, which is enclosed, when he says he tried to return my call, that is bul shit. If it is true, it means only that he phoned once and didn't get an answer. It akes no time at all to leave word with the operator or to ask a secretary to try again later or thenext day. I have checked my diary and during the entire month of August I was not away until the 28th, when, having medical appointments in Washington, Lil and I also did other things there. When he didn't return that call, I again took time to write him about this one thing he had promised. That was 8/21. You will note, I have marked it. All itt asks is the promise, long promised, data on the descriptions of the capabilities of the tests. His reply, if one can call it that, was 8/27. I tried it include this on one of the other sheets, but all but the letters at the bottom didn't come out. I tell you this is one of his more moderate comments. Usually it takes the form of telling me how fortunate everyone else is that I work as I do. That is no dibstitute for the technical date on his office bookshelves. I waited until 9/12 for him to send it. When he didn't, I again wrote him then, and the appropriate part is marked. The rest is because he had asked me to keep him posted the one time we had a phone conversation after the Allbeck hearing.

To this day I have not gotten that data. I think this has a meaning I must at least consider if not decide upon. These are not the only efforts. He did make the promise. To this day I have gotten from him OOOOO except the occasional comments on how great I am. And aside from my immediate concern about what can happen to us and all the work so many have done as a consequence of the government's response, if they have the imagination, to his request, I think this also is an answer for you on your worry about the harm to <u>us</u> if we become alienated from the critical community. Ask Lil if you want eloquence. She has been after me for some time to break off with Kost. And ask yourself if we had to be spending so much time writing letters, as to Cyril, Penn, Gough and others. Help? It has never once happened. And today the only ones who try are you, Howard and Roch, who sometimes sends me copies of things. And in terms of financial help, not onlyhas it never happend but the California people, LA and SF, owe me about $1,000 as does Garrison. Even Gary, who is a great as they come, took quite a fewyears to pay what he owed. I'm glad he did, because that $70 came when I was flat broke. The San Diego people haven't answer my last letters on their debt. The last was on 10/1-I just checked the files. Before that June 2. I haven't gone back any further. Even Bud has beat me out of the money it cost me to get Ray as his client. So the one thing on which you should have no illusions is the "help" I get or have gotten from the recognized critics. It is not even a scrap of paper. And I can't get the money they owe me.

Lil has fallen back to sleep. I've just gotten her up again. Ap arently she also couldn't sleep last night. I kept writing expecting her to call me to breakfast. My purpose was to show you by the correspondence about Cyril. So, in writing him, whether or not I was right, I wasn't about to play into the hands of another who might, like Hed, want to "get" the Kennedys because they, like I, thing they did less than they could. That will accomplish nothing, that has to be considered in the context of their lives and problems, and in that of those who really did the dirty work. Sincerely,